

108th CONGRESS
1st Session
S. 1940
[Report No. 108-208]

To reauthorize the Head Start Act, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

November 24, 2003

Mr. GREGG, from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, reported the following original bill; which was read twice and placed on the calendar

A BILL

To reauthorize the Head Start Act, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the 'Head Start Improvements for School Readiness Act'.

SEC. 2. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE.

Section 636 of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9831) is amended by inserting 'educational instruction in prereading skills, premathematics skills, and language and through' after 'low-income children through'.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

Section 637 of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9832) is amended--
(1) in paragraph (2), by inserting '(including a community-based organization)' after 'nonprofit';
(2) in paragraph (17), by striking 'Mariana Islands,' and all that follows and inserting 'Mariana Islands.'; and
(3) by adding at the end the following:
'(18) The term 'homeless child' means a child described in section 725(2) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11434a(2)).

`(19) The term `limited English proficient', used with respect to a child, means a child--

`(A) who is enrolled or preparing to enroll in a Head Start program, Early Head Start program, or other early care and education program;

`(B)(i) who was not born in the United States or whose native language is a language other than English;

`(ii)(I) who is an Indian (including an Alaskan Native) or a native resident of a United States territory; and

`(II) who comes from an environment where a language other than English has had a significant impact on the child's level of English language proficiency; or

`(iii) who is migratory, whose native language is a language other than English, and who comes from an environment where a language other than English is dominant; and

`(C) whose difficulty in speaking or understanding the English language may be sufficient to deny such child--

`(i) the ability to successfully achieve in a classroom in which the language of instruction is English; or

`(ii) the opportunity to participate fully in society.'.

SEC. 4. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR HEAD START PROGRAMS.

Section 638 of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9833) is amended by inserting `for a period of 5 years' after `provide financial assistance to such agency'.

SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 639 of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9834) is amended to read as follows:

`SEC. 639. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

`(a) IN GENERAL- There are authorized to be appropriated for carrying out the provisions of this subchapter \$7,215,000,000 for fiscal year 2005, \$7,615,000,000 for fiscal year 2006, \$8,015,000,000 for fiscal year 2007, and such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2008 and 2009.

`(b) SPECIFIC PROGRAMS- From the amount appropriated under subsection (a), the Secretary shall make available to carry out research, demonstration, and evaluation activities, including longitudinal studies under section 649, not more than \$20,000,000 for fiscal year 2004, and such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2005 through 2009, of which not more than \$7,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2004 through 2009 shall be available to carry out impact studies under section 649(g).'

SEC. 6. ALLOTMENT OF FUNDS.

(a) ALLOTMENT- Section 640(a) of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9835(a)) is amended--

(1) in paragraph (2)--

(A) by striking subparagraph (A) and inserting the following:

`(A) Indian Head Start programs, services for children with disabilities, and migrant and seasonal Head Start programs, except that--

`(i) subject to the availability of appropriations, the Secretary shall reserve for each fiscal year for use by Indian Head Start and migrant and seasonal Head Start programs (referred to in this subparagraph as `covered programs'), on a nationwide basis, a sum that is the total of not less than 4 percent of the amount appropriated under section 639 for that fiscal year (for Indian Head Start programs), and not less than 5 percent of that appropriated amount (for migrant and seasonal Head Start programs), except that--

`(I) if reserving the specified percentages for Indian Head Start programs and migrant and seasonal Head Start programs would reduce the number of children served by Head Start programs, relative to the number of children served on the date of enactment of the Head Start Improvements for School Readiness Act, taking into consideration an appropriate adjustment for inflation, the Secretary

shall reserve percentages that approach, as closely as practicable, the specified percentages and that do not cause such a reduction; and

`(II) notwithstanding any other provision of this subparagraph, the Secretary shall reserve for each fiscal year for use by Indian Head Start programs and by migrant and seasonal Head Start programs, on a nationwide basis, not less than the amount that was obligated for use by Indian Head Start programs and by migrant and seasonal Head Start programs for the previous fiscal year;

`(ii) after ensuring that each grant recipient for a covered program has received an amount sufficient to enable the grant recipient to serve the same number of children in Head Start programs as were served by such grant recipient on the date of enactment of the Head Start Improvements for School Readiness Act, taking into consideration an appropriate adjustment for inflation, and after allotting the funds reserved under paragraph (3)(A) as specified in paragraph (3)(D), the Secretary shall distribute the remaining funds available under this subparagraph for covered programs, by--

`(I) distributing 65 percent of the remainder by giving priority to grant recipients in the States

serving the smallest percentages of eligible children (as determined by the Secretary); and

(II) distributing 35 percent of the remainder on a competitive basis;'; and

(B) by striking subparagraph (C) and inserting the following:

(C) training and technical assistance activities that are sufficient to meet the needs associated with program expansion and to foster program and management improvement activities as described in section 648, in an amount for each fiscal year that is equal to 2 percent of the amount appropriated under section 639 for such fiscal year, of which--

(i) 50 percent shall be made available to Head Start agencies to comply with the standards described in section 641A(a)(1) and with the transportation safety regulations issued pursuant to subsection (i) and section 645A(b)(11), and for the uses described in clauses (iii), (iv), and (vii) of paragraph (3)(B);

(ii) 50 percent shall be made available to the Secretary to support a regional or State system of early childhood education training and technical assistance and to assist local programs (including Indian Head Start programs and migrant and seasonal Head Start programs) in meeting the standards described in section 641A(a)(1); and

(iii) not less than \$3,000,000 of the amount in clause (ii) appropriated for such fiscal year shall be made available to carry out activities described in section 648(d)(4);';

(2) in paragraph (3)--

(A) in subparagraph (A)(i)(I)--

(i) by striking '60 percent of such excess amount for fiscal year 1999' and all that follows through '2002, and'; and

(ii) by inserting before the semicolon the following: 'and 50 percent of such excess amount for each of fiscal years 2005 through 2009';

(B) in subparagraph (B)--

(i) in clause (i), by striking 'performance standards' and all that follows and inserting 'standards and measures pursuant to section 641A.';

(ii) by striking clause (ii) and inserting the following:

(ii) Ensuring that such programs have adequate numbers of qualified staff, and that such staff is furnished adequate training, including training to promote the development of language skills, premathematics skills, and prereading in young children and in working with limited English proficient children, children referred by child welfare services, and children with disabilities, when appropriate.';

(iii) by striking clause (iii) and inserting the following:

(iii) Developing and financing the salary scales and benefits standards under section 644(a) and section 653, in order to ensure that salary levels and benefits are adequate to attract and retain qualified staff for such

programs.';

(iv) by striking clause (iv) and inserting the following:

`(iv) Using salary increases to--

`(I) assist with the implementation of quality programs and improve staff qualifications;

`(II) ensure that staff can promote the language skills and literacy growth of children and can provide children with a variety of skills that have been identified, through scientifically based early reading research, as predictive of later reading achievement; and

`(III) encourage the staff to continually improve their skills and expertise by informing the staff of the availability of Federal and State incentive and loan forgiveness programs for professional development.';

(v) in clause (v), by inserting `, including collaborations to increase program participation by underserved populations of eligible children' before the period; and

(vi) by striking clauses (vii) and (viii) and inserting the following:

`(vii) Providing assistance to complete postsecondary coursework including scholarships or other financial incentives, such as differential and merit pay, to enable Head Start teachers to improve competencies and the resulting child outcomes.

`(viii) Promoting the regular attendance and stability of all Head Start children with particular attention to highly mobile children, including children from migrant and seasonal farmworking families (where appropriate), homeless children, and children in foster care.

`(ix) Making such other improvements in the quality of such programs as the Secretary may designate.';

(C) in subparagraph (C)--

(i) in clause (i)(I), by striking the last sentence and inserting `Salary increases, in excess of cost-of-living allowances, provided with such funds shall be subject to the specific standards governing salaries and salary increases established pursuant to section 644(a).';

(ii) in clause (ii)--

(I) in the matter preceding subclause (I), by striking `education performance' and inserting `additional educational';

(II) in subclause (I), by inserting `, prereading,' after `language';

(III) by striking subclause (II) and inserting the following:

`(II) to help limited English proficient children attain the knowledge, skills, and development specified in section 641A(a)(1)(B)(ii) and to promote the acquisition of the English language by such children and families;'; and

(IV) by striking subclause (IV) and inserting the following:

`(IV) to provide education and training necessary to improve the qualifications of Head Start staff, particularly assistance to enable more instructors to be fully competent and to meet the degree requirements under section 648A(a)(2)(A), and to support staff training, child counseling, and other services necessary to address the challenges of children participating in Head Start programs, including children from immigrant, refugee, and asylee families, children from families in crisis, children who experience chronic violence in their communities, and children who experience substance abuse in their families.';

(iii) in clause (iii), by inserting `, educational staff who have the qualifications described in section 648A(a),' after `ratio';

(iv) in clause (v), by striking `programs, including' and all that follows and inserting `programs.';

(v) by redesignating clause (vi) as clause (viii); and

(vi) by inserting after clause (v) the following:

`(vi) To conduct outreach to homeless families in an effort to increase the program participation of eligible homeless children.

`(vii) To conduct outreach to migrant and seasonal farmworking families and families with limited English proficient children.';

(3) in paragraph (4)--

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking `1998' and inserting `2003'; and

(B) by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting the following:

`(B) any amount available after all allotments are made under subparagraph (A) for such fiscal year shall be distributed as follows:

`(i) Each State shall receive an amount sufficient to enable such State to serve the same number of children in Head Start programs as were served by such State on the date of enactment of the Head Start Improvements for School Readiness Act, taking into consideration an appropriate adjustment for inflation.

`(ii) After ensuring that each State has received the amount described in clause (i) and after allotting the funds reserved under paragraph (3)(A) as specified in paragraph (3)(D), the Secretary shall distribute the remaining balance, by--

`(I) distributing 65 percent of the balance by giving priority to States serving the smallest percentages of eligible children (as determined by the Secretary); and

`(II) distributing 35 percent of the balance on a competitive basis.';

(4) in paragraph (5)--

(A) by redesignating subparagraphs (E) and (F) as subparagraphs (F) and (G), respectively; and

(B) by striking subparagraphs (B), (C), and (D) and inserting the following:

`(B)(i) From the reserved sums, the Secretary shall award a collaboration grant to each State to facilitate collaboration between Head Start agencies and entities (including the State) that carry out other activities designed to benefit low-income families and children from birth to school entry.

`(ii) Grants described in clause (i) shall be used to--

`(I) encourage Head Start agencies to collaborate with entities involved in State and local planning processes to better meet the needs of low-income families and children from birth to school entry;

`(II) encourage Head Start agencies to coordinate activities with the State agency responsible for administering the State program carried out under the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858 et seq.) and entities providing resources and referral services in the State to make full-working-day and full calendar year services available to children;

`(III) promote alignment of Head Start services with State early learning and school readiness goals and standards;

`(IV) promote better linkages between Head Start agencies and other child and family agencies, including agencies that provide health, mental

health, or family services, or other child or family supportive services; and

`(V) carry out the activities of the State Director of Head Start Collaboration authorized in subparagraph (D).

`(C) In order to improve coordination and delivery of early education services to children in the State, a State that receives a grant under subparagraph (B) shall--

`(i) appoint an individual to serve as the State Director of Head Start Collaboration;

`(ii) ensure that the State Director of Head Start Collaboration holds a position with sufficient authority and access to ensure that the collaboration described in subparagraph (B) is effective and involves a range of State agencies; and

`(iii) involve the State Head Start Association in the selection of the Director and involve the Association in determinations relating to the ongoing direction of the collaboration office.

`(D) The State Director of Head Start Collaboration, after consultation with the State Advisory Council described in subparagraph (E), shall--

`(i) not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Head Start Improvements for School Readiness Act, conduct an assessment that--

`(I) addresses the needs of Head Start agencies in the State with respect to collaborating, coordinating services, and implementing State early learning and school readiness goals and standards to better serve children enrolled in Head Start programs in the State;

`(II) shall be updated on an annual basis; and

`(III) shall be made available to the general public within the State;

`(ii) assess the availability of high quality prekindergarten services for low-income children in the State;

`(iii) develop a strategic plan that is based on the assessment described in clause (i) that will--

`(I) enhance collaboration and coordination of Head Start services with other entities providing early childhood programs and services (such as child care and services offered by museums), health care, mental health care, welfare, child protective services, education and community service activities, family literacy services, reading readiness programs (including such programs offered by public and school libraries), services relating to children with disabilities (including coordination of services with those State officials who are responsible for administering section 619 and part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1419, 1431 et seq.), and other early childhood programs and services for limited English proficient and homeless children (including coordination of services with the Office of Coordinator for Education of Homeless Children and Youths under section 722(d)(3) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11432(d)(3)));

`(II) assist Head Start agencies to develop a plan for the provision of full-working-day, full calendar year services for children enrolled in Head Start programs who need such care;

`(III) assist Head Start agencies to align services with State early learning and school readiness goals and standards and to facilitate collaborative efforts to develop local school readiness standards; and

`(IV) enable agencies in the State to better coordinate professional development opportunities for Head Start staff, such as by--

`(aa) assisting 2- and 4-year public and private institutions of higher education to develop articulation agreements;

`(bb) awarding grants to institutions of higher education to develop model early childhood education programs, including practica or internships for students to spend time in a Head Start or prekindergarten program;

`(cc) working with local Head Start agencies to meet the degree requirements described in section 648A(a)(2)(A), including providing distance learning opportunities for Head Start staff, where needed to make higher education more accessible to Head Start staff; and

`(dd) enabling the State Head Start agencies to better coordinate outreach to eligible families;

`(iv) promote partnerships between Head Start agencies, State governments, and the private sector to help ensure that preschool children from low-income families are receiving comprehensive services to prepare the children to enter school ready to learn;

`(v) consult with the chief State school officer, local educational agencies, and providers of early childhood education and care to conduct unified

planning regarding early care and education services at both the State and local levels, including undertaking collaborative efforts to develop and make improvements in school readiness standards;

`(vi) promote partnerships (such as the partnerships involved with the Free to Grow initiative) between Head Start agencies, schools, law enforcement, and substance abuse and mental health treatment agencies to strengthen family and community environments and to reduce the impact on child development of substance abuse, child abuse, domestic violence, and other high risk behaviors that compromise healthy development;

`(vii) promote partnerships between Head Start agencies and other organizations in order to enhance the Head Start curriculum, including partnerships to promote inclusion of more books in Head Start classrooms and partnerships to promote coordination of activities with the Ready-to-Learn Television program carried out under subpart 3 of part D of title II of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6775 et seq.); and

`(viii) identify other resources and organizations (both public and private) for the provision of in-kind services to Head Start agencies in the State.

`(E)(i) The Governor of the State shall designate or establish a council to serve as the State advisory council on collaboration on early care and education activities for children from birth to school entry (in this subchapter referred to as the `State Advisory Council').

`(ii) The Governor may designate an existing entity to serve as the State Advisory Council, if the entity includes representatives described in subclauses (I) through (XXIV) of clause (iii).

SEC. 7. DESIGNATION OF HEAD START AGENCIES.

Section 641 of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9836) is amended to read as follows:

`SEC. 641. DESIGNATION OF HEAD START AGENCIES.

`(a) DESIGNATION-

`(1) IN GENERAL- The Secretary is authorized to designate as a Head Start agency any local public or private nonprofit or for-profit agency, within a community, including a community-based organization that--

`(A) has power and authority to carry out the purpose of this subchapter and perform the functions set forth in section 642 within a community; and

`(B) is determined to be capable of planning, conducting, administering, and evaluating, either directly or by other arrangements, a Head Start program.

`(2) REQUIRED GOALS FOR DESIGNATION- In order to be designated as a Head Start agency, an

entity described in paragraph (1) shall establish program goals for improving the school readiness of children participating in a program under this subchapter, including goals for meeting the performance standards and additional educational standards described in section 641A and shall establish results-based school readiness goals that are aligned with requirements and expectations for local public schools.

`(3) ELIGIBILITY FOR SUBSEQUENT GRANTS- In order to receive a grant under this subchapter subsequent to the initial grant provided following the date of enactment of the Head Start Improvements for School Readiness Act, an entity described in paragraph (1) shall demonstrate that the entity has met or is making progress toward meeting the goals described in paragraph (2).

`(b) COMMUNITIES- For purposes of this subchapter, a community may be a city, county, or multicity or multicounty unit within a State, an Indian reservation (including Indians in any off-reservation area designated by an appropriate tribal government in consultation with the Secretary), or a neighborhood or other area (irrespective of boundaries or political subdivisions) that provides a suitable organizational base and possesses the commonality of interest needed to operate a Head Start program.

`(c) PRIORITY IN DESIGNATION- In administering the provisions of this section, the Secretary shall, in consultation with the chief executive officer of the State involved, give priority in the designation (including redesignation) of Head Start agencies to any high-performing Head Start agency or delegate agency that--

`(1) is receiving assistance under this subchapter;

`(2) meets or exceeds program and financial management requirements, standards described in section 641A(a)(1), or other requirements established by the Secretary;

`(3) has no unresolved programmatic deficiencies and has not had findings of deficiencies during the last triennial review under section 641A(c); and

`(4) can demonstrate, through agreements such as memoranda of understanding, active collaboration with the State in the provision of services for children (such as the provision of extended day services, education, professional development and training for staff, and other types of cooperative endeavors).

`(d) DESIGNATION WHEN ENTITY HAS PRIORITY- If no entity in a community is entitled to the priority specified in subsection (c), the Secretary shall, after conducting an open competition, designate a Head Start agency from among qualified applicants in such community.

`(e) EFFECTIVENESS- In selecting from among qualified applicants for designation as a Head Start agency, the Secretary shall consider the effectiveness of each such applicant to provide Head Start services, based on--

`(1) any past performance of such applicant in providing services comparable to Head Start services, including how effectively such applicant provided such comparable services;

`(2) the plan of such applicant to provide comprehensive health, educational, nutritional, social, and other services needed to aid participating children in attaining their full potential, and to prepare

- children to succeed in school;
- `(3) the capacity of such applicant to serve eligible children with scientifically based programs that promote school readiness of children participating in the program;
 - `(4) the plan of such applicant to meet standards set forth in section 641A(a)(1), with particular attention to the standards set forth in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of such section;
 - `(5) the plan of such applicant to coordinate the Head Start program the applicant proposes to carry out with other preschool programs, including--
 - `(A) the Early Reading First and Even Start programs under subparts 2 and 3 of part B of title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6371 et seq., 6381 et seq.);
 - `(B) programs under section 619 and part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1419, 1431 et seq.);
 - `(C) State prekindergarten programs;
 - `(D) child care programs;
 - `(E) the educational programs that the children in the Head Start program involved will enter at the age of compulsory school attendance; and
 - `(F) reading readiness programs such as those conducted by public and school libraries;
 - `(6) the plan of such applicant to coordinate the Head Start program that the applicant proposes to carry out with public and private entities who are willing to commit resources to assist the Head Start program in meeting its program needs;
 - `(7) the plan of such applicant to collaborate with a local library, where available, that is interested in that collaboration, to--
 - `(A) develop innovative programs to excite children about the world of books, such as programs that involve--
 - `(i) taking children to the library for a story hour;
 - `(ii) promoting the use of library cards;
 - `(iii) developing a lending library or using a mobile library van; and
 - `(iv) providing fresh books in the Head Start classroom on a regular basis;
 - `(B) assist in literacy training for Head Start teachers; and
 - `(C) support parents and other caregivers in literacy efforts;
 - `(8) the plan of such applicant--
 - `(A) to seek the involvement of parents of participating children in activities (at home and in the center involved where practicable) designed to help such parents become full partners in the education of their children;
 - `(B) to afford such parents the opportunity to participate in the development and overall conduct of the program at the local level;
 - `(C) to offer (directly or through referral to local entities, such as

entities carrying out Even Start programs under subpart 3 of part B of title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6381 et seq.), public and school libraries, and entities carrying out family support programs) to such parents--

`(i) family literacy services; and

`(ii) parenting skills training;

`(D) to offer to parents of participating children substance abuse counseling (either directly or through referral to local entities), including information on the effect of drug exposure on infants and fetal alcohol syndrome;

`(E) at the option of such applicant, to offer (directly or through referral to local entities) to such parents--

`(i) training in basic child development (including cognitive development);

`(ii) assistance in developing literacy and communication skills;

`(iii) opportunities to share experiences with other parents (including parent mentor relationships);

`(iv) regular in-home visitation; or

`(v) any other activity designed to help such parents become full partners in the education of their children;

`(F) to provide, with respect to each participating family, a family needs assessment that includes consultation with such parents about the benefits of parent involvement and about the activities described in subparagraphs (C), (D), and (E) in which such parents may choose to become involved (taking into consideration their specific family needs, work schedules, and other responsibilities); and

`(G) to extend outreach to fathers, in appropriate cases, in order to strengthen the role of fathers in families, in the education of their young children, and in the Head Start program, by working directly with fathers and father figures through activities such as--

`(i) in appropriate cases, including fathers in home visits and providing opportunities for direct father-child interactions; and

`(ii) targeting increased male participation in the conduct of the program;

`(9) the ability of such applicant to carry out the plans described in paragraphs (2), (4), and (5);

`(10) other factors related to the requirements of this subchapter;

`(11) the plan of such applicant to meet the needs of limited English proficient children and their families, including procedures to identify such children, plans to provide trained personnel, and plans to provide services to assist the children in making progress toward the acquisition of the English language;

`(12) the plan of such applicant to meet the needs of children with

disabilities;

`(13) the plan of such applicant who chooses to assist younger siblings of children who will participate in the Head Start program, to obtain health services from other sources;

`(14) the plan of such applicant to collaborate with other entities carrying out early childhood education and child care programs in the community; and

`(15) the plan of such applicant to meet the needs of homeless children and children in foster care.'

SEC. 8. QUALITY STANDARDS; MONITORING OF HEAD START AGENCIES AND PROGRAMS.

Section 641A of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9836a) is amended--

(1) in subsection (a)--

(A) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking `642(d)' and inserting `642(c)';

(B) in paragraph (1)(B)--

(i) in clause (i), by striking `education performance standards' and inserting `educational performance standards'; and

(ii) by striking clause (ii) and inserting the following:

`(ii) additional educational standards based on the recommendations of the National Academy of Sciences panel described in section 649(h) and other experts in the field, to ensure that the curriculum involved addresses, and that the children participating in the program show appropriate progress toward developing and applying, the recommended educational outcomes, after the panel considers the appropriateness of additional educational standards relating to--

`(I) language skills related to listening, understanding, speaking, and communicating, including--

`(aa) understanding and use of a diverse vocabulary (including knowing the names of colors) and knowledge of how to use oral language to communicate for various purposes;

`(bb) narrative abilities used, for example, to comprehend, tell, and respond to a story, or to comprehend instructions;

`(cc) ability to detect and produce sounds of the language the child speaks or is learning; and

`(dd) clarity of pronunciation and speaking in syntactically and grammatically correct sentences;

`(II) prereading knowledge and skills, including--

`(aa) alphabet knowledge including knowing the letter names and associating letters with their shapes

and sounds in the language the child speaks or is learning;

`(bb) phonological awareness and processes that support reading, for example, rhyming, recognizing speech sounds and separate syllables in spoken words, and putting speech sounds together to make words;

`(cc) knowledge, interest in, and appreciation of books, reading, and writing (either alone or with others), and knowledge that books have parts such as the front, back, and title page;

`(dd) early writing, including the ability to write one's own name and other words and phrases; and

`(ee) print awareness and concepts, including recognizing different forms of print and understanding the association between spoken and written words;

`(III) premathematics knowledge and skills, including--

`(aa) number recognition;

`(bb) use of early number concepts and operations, including counting, simple adding and subtracting, and knowledge of quantitative relationships such as part versus whole and comparison of numbers of objects;

`(cc) use of early space and location concepts including recognizing shapes, classification, striation, and understanding directionality; and

`(dd) early pattern skills and measurement, including recognizing and extending simple patterns and measuring length, weight, and time;

`(IV) scientific abilities, including--

`(aa) building awareness about scientific skills and methods, such as gathering, describing, and recording information, making observations, and

making explanations and predictions; and

`(bb) expanding scientific knowledge of the environment, time, temperature, and cause and effect relationships;

`(V) general cognitive abilities related to academic achievement and child development, including--

`(aa) reasoning, planning, and problem solving skills;

`(bb) ability to engage, sustain attention, and persist on challenging tasks;

`(cc) intellectual curiosity, initiative, and task engagement; and

`(dd) motivation to achieve and master concepts and skills;

`(VI) social and emotional development related to early learning and school success, including developing--

`(aa) the ability to develop social relationships, demonstrate cooperative behaviors, and relate to teachers and peers in positive and respectful ways;

`(bb) an understanding of the consequences of actions, following rules, and appropriately expressing feelings;

`(cc) a sense of self, such as self-awareness, independence, and confidence;

`(dd) the ability to control negative behaviors with teachers and peers that include impulsiveness, aggression, and noncompliance; and

`(ee) knowledge of civic society and surrounding communities;

`(VII) physical development, including developing--

`(aa) fine motor skills, such as strength, manual dexterity, and hand-eye coordination; and

`(bb) gross motor skills, such as balance and coordinated movements; and

`(VIII) in the case of limited English proficient children, progress toward acquisition of the English language while making meaningful progress in attaining the knowledge, skills, abilities, and development described in subclauses (I) through (VII);';

(C) in paragraph (1)(D), by striking `projects; and' and inserting `projects, including regulations that require that the facilities used by Head Start agencies (including Early Head Start agencies) and delegate agencies for regularly scheduled center-based and combination program option classroom activities--

`(i) shall be in compliance with State and local requirements concerning licensing for such facilities; and

`(ii) shall be accessible by State and local authorities for purposes of monitoring and ensuring compliance.';

(D) in paragraph (2)--

(i) in subparagraph (B)--

(I) in clause (i), by striking `the date of enactment of this section' and inserting `the date of enactment of the Head Start Improvements for School Readiness Act';

(II) in clause (ii), by striking `the date of enactment of this Act' and inserting `the date of enactment of the Head Start Improvements for School Readiness Act';

(III) in clause (vi), by striking `; and' and inserting a semicolon;

(IV) in clause (vii), by striking `public schools' and inserting `the schools that the children will be attending'; and

(V) by adding at the end the following:

`(viii) the unique challenges faced by individual programs, including those programs that are seasonal or short term and those programs that serve rural populations; and';

(ii) in subparagraph (C)(ii), by striking `the date of enactment of the Coats Human Services Reauthorization Act of 1998' and inserting `the date of enactment of the Head Start Improvements for School Readiness Act'; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

`(D) consult with Indian tribes, American Indian and Alaska Native experts in early childhood development, linguists, and the National Indian Head Start Directors Association on the review and promulgation of program standards and measures (including standards and measures for language acquisition and school readiness).';

(E) by adding at the end the following:

`(4) EVALUATIONS AND CORRECTIVE ACTIONS FOR DELEGATE AGENCIES-

`(A) PROCEDURES- The Head Start agency shall establish procedures relating to its delegate agencies, including--

`(i) procedures for evaluating delegate agencies;

`(ii) procedures for defunding delegate agencies; and

`(iii) procedures for appealing a defunding decision relating to a delegate agency.

`(B) EVALUATIONS- Each Head Start agency--

`(i) shall evaluate its delegate agencies using the procedures established pursuant to this section, including subparagraph (A); and

`(ii) shall inform the delegate agencies of the deficiencies identified through the evaluation that shall be corrected.

`(C) REMEDIES TO ENSURE CORRECTIVE ACTIONS- In the event that the Head Start agency identifies a deficiency for a delegate agency through the evaluation, the Head Start agency may--

`(i) initiate procedures to terminate the designation of the agency unless the agency corrects the deficiency;

`(ii) conduct monthly monitoring visits to such delegate agency until all deficiencies are corrected or the Head Start agency decides to defund such delegate agency; and

`(iii) release funds to such delegate agency only as reimbursements until all deficiencies are corrected or the

Head Start agency decides to defund such delegate agency.
(D) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION- Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to impact

or obviate the responsibilities of the Secretary with respect to Head Start agencies or delegate agencies receiving funding under this subchapter.;

(2) in subsection (b)--

(A) in paragraph (2)--

(i) by striking the paragraph heading and inserting the following:

(2) CHARACTERISTICS AND USE OF MEASURES- ';

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking ', not later than July 1, 1999; and' and inserting a semicolon;

(iii) in subparagraph (C), by striking the period and inserting a semicolon;

(iv) by striking the flush matter following subparagraph (C); and

(v) by adding at the end the following:

(D) measure characteristics that are strongly predictive (as determined on a scientific basis) of a child's school readiness and later performance in school;

(E) be appropriate for the population served; and

(F) be reviewed not less than every 4 years, based on advances in the science of early childhood development.

The performance measures shall include the performance standards and additional educational standards described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subsection (a)(1).';

(B) in paragraph (3)--

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking ', and' and inserting a semicolon;

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period and inserting ', and'; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

(C) to enable Head Start agencies to individualize programs of instruction to better meet the needs of the child involved.');

(C) by striking paragraph (4) and inserting the following:

(4) RESULTS-BASED OUTCOME MEASURES- Results-based outcome measures shall be designed for the purpose of promoting the knowledge, skills, abilities, and development, described in subsection (a)(1)(B)(ii) of children participating in Head Start programs that are strongly predictive (as determined on a scientific basis) of a child's school readiness and later performance in school.');

(D) by striking paragraph (5) and inserting the following:

(5) ADDITIONAL LOCAL RESULTS-BASED EDUCATIONAL MEASURES AND GOALS- Head Start agencies may establish and implement additional local results-based educational measures and goals.');

(3) in subsection (c)--

- (A) in paragraph (1)--
 - (i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting `and Head Start centers' after `Head Start programs';
 - (ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking `such agency' and inserting `Head Start center';
 - (iii) by striking subparagraph (C) and inserting the following:

`(C) Unannounced site inspections of Head Start centers, as appropriate.;

- (iv) by redesignating subparagraph (D) as subparagraph (E); and

- (v) by inserting after subparagraph (C) the following:

`(D) Followup reviews including--

- (i) prompt return visits to agencies, programs, and centers that fail to meet 1 or more of the performance measures developed by the Secretary under subsection (b); and

- (ii) a review of programs with citations that include findings of deficiencies not later than 6 months after the date of such citation.;

(B) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

`(2) CONDUCT OF REVIEWS- The Secretary shall ensure that reviews described in paragraph (1)--

- (A) that incorporate a monitoring visit, may incorporate the visit without prior notice of the visit to the agency involved or with such limited prior notice as is necessary to ensure the participation of parents and key staff members;

- (B) are conducted by review teams that shall include individuals who are knowledgeable about Head Start and other early childhood education programs and, to the maximum extent practicable, the diverse (including linguistic and cultural) needs of eligible children (including children with disabilities) and limited English proficient children and their families;

- (C) include as part of the reviews of the programs, a review and assessment of program effectiveness, as measured in accordance with the results-based performance measures developed by the Secretary pursuant to subsection (b) and with the standards established pursuant to subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subsection (a)(1);

- (D) seek information from the communities and States where Head Start programs exist about innovative or effective collaborative efforts, barriers to collaboration, and the efforts of the Head Start agencies to collaborate with the entities carrying out early childhood education and child care programs in the community;

- (E) include as part of the reviews of the programs, a review and assessment of whether the programs are in conformity with the

income eligibility requirements under section 645 and regulations promulgated under such section;

`(F) include as part of the reviews of the programs, a review and assessment of whether programs have adequately addressed the population and community needs (including needs of populations of limited English proficient children and children of migrant and seasonal farmworking families); and

`(G) include as part of the reviews of the programs, data from the results of periodic child assessments, and a review and assessment of child outcomes and performance as they relate to State, local, and agency-determined school readiness goals.';

(4) in subsection (d)(1)(A), by inserting `and identify the technical assistance to be provided consistent with paragraph (3)' after `corrected';

(5) in subsection (e), by striking the last sentence and inserting `The information contained in such report shall be made available to all parents with children receiving assistance under this subchapter in an understandable and uniform format, and to the extent practicable, provided in a language that the parents can understand. Such information shall be made widely available through public means such as distribution through public agencies, and, at a minimum, by posting such information on the Internet immediately upon publication.'; and

(6) by adding at the end the following:

`(f) REDUCTION OF GRANTS AND REDISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS IN CASES OF UNDER-ENROLLMENT-

`(1) DEFINITIONS- In this subsection:

`(A) ACTUAL ENROLLMENT- The term `actual enrollment' means, with respect to the program of a Head Start agency, the actual number of children enrolled in such program and reported by the agency (as required in paragraph (2)) in a given month.

`(B) BASE GRANT- The term `base grant' means, with respect to a Head Start agency for a fiscal year, that portion of the grant derived--

`(i) from amounts reserved for use in accordance with section 640(a)(2)(A), for a Head Start agency administering an Indian Head Start program or migrant and seasonal Head Start program;

`(ii) from amounts reserved for payments under section 640(a)(2)(B); or

`(iii) from amounts available under section 640(a)(2)(D) or allotted among States under section 640(a)(4).

`(C) FUNDED ENROLLMENT- The term `funded enrollment' means, with respect to the program of a Head Start agency in a fiscal year, the number of children that the agency is funded to serve through a grant for the program during such fiscal year, as indicated in the grant agreement.

`(2) ENROLLMENT REPORTING REQUIREMENT FOR CURRENT

FISCAL YEAR- Each entity carrying out a Head Start program shall report on a monthly basis to the Secretary and the relevant Head Start agency--

`(A) the actual enrollment in such program; and

SEC. 9. CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE IN EARLY CHILDHOOD.

The Head Start Act is amended by inserting after section 641A (42 U.S.C. 9836a) the following:

`SEC. 641B. CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE IN EARLY CHILDHOOD.

`(a) DEFINITION- In this section, the term `center of excellence' means a Center of Excellence in Early Childhood designated under subsection (b).

`(b) DESIGNATION AND BONUS GRANTS- The Secretary shall, subject to the availability of funds under this subchapter, including under subsection (f), establish a program under which the Secretary shall--

`(1) designate not more than 200 exemplary Head Start agencies (including Early Head Start agencies) as Centers of Excellence in Early Childhood; and

`(2) make bonus grants to the centers of excellence to carry out the activities described in subsection (d).

`(c) APPLICATION AND DESIGNATION-

`(1) APPLICATION-

`(A) NOMINATION AND SUBMISSION-

`(i) IN GENERAL- To be eligible to receive a designation as a center of excellence under subsection (b), a Head Start agency in a State shall be nominated by the Governor of the State and shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

`(ii) INDIAN AND MIGRANT AND SEASONAL HEAD START PROGRAMS- In the case of an agency operating an Indian Head Start program or a migrant and seasonal Head Start program, to be eligible to receive a designation as a center of excellence under subsection (b), such an agency shall be nominated by the Governor of the State and by its program branch and shall submit an application to the Secretary in accordance with clause (i).

`(B) CONTENTS- At a minimum, the application shall include--

`(i) evidence that the Head Start program carried out by the agency has significantly improved the school readiness of, and enhanced academic outcomes for, children who have participated in the program;

`(ii) evidence that the program meets or exceeds standards

and performance measures described in subsections (a) and (b) of section 641A, as evidenced by successful completion of programmatic and monitoring reviews, and has no findings of deficiencies with respect to the standards and measures;

`(iii) evidence that the program is making progress toward meeting the requirements described in section 648A;

`(iv) evidence demonstrating the existence of a collaborative partnership between the Head Start agency and the State (or a State agency);

`(v) a nomination letter from the Governor, demonstrating the agency's ability to carry out the coordination, transition, and training services of the program to be carried out under the bonus grant involved, including coordination of activities with State and local agencies that provide early childhood services to children and families in the community served by the agency; and

`(vi) information demonstrating the existence of, or the agency's plan to establish, a local council for excellence in early childhood, which shall include representatives of all the institutions, agencies, and groups involved in the work of the center for, and the local provision of services to, eligible children and other at-risk children, and their families.

`(2) SELECTION- In selecting agencies to designate as centers of excellence under subsection (b), the Secretary shall designate not less than 1 from each of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

`(3) TERM OF DESIGNATION-

`(A) IN GENERAL- Subject to subparagraph (B), the Secretary shall designate a Head Start agency as a center of excellence for a 5-year term. During the period of that designation, subject to the availability of appropriations, the agency shall be eligible to receive a bonus grant under subsection (b).

`(B) REVOCATION- The Secretary may revoke an agency's designation under subsection (b) if the Secretary determines that the agency is not demonstrating adequate performance or has had findings of deficiencies described in paragraph (1)(B)(ii).

`(4) AMOUNT OF BONUS GRANT- The Secretary shall base the amount of funding provided through a bonus grant made under subsection (b) to a center of excellence on the number of children served at the center of excellence. The Secretary shall, subject to the availability of funding, make such a bonus grant in an amount of not less than \$100,000 per year.

`(d) USE OF FUNDS-

`(1) ACTIVITIES- A center of excellence that receives a bonus grant under subsection (b) may use the funds made available through the bonus grant--

`(A) to provide Head Start services to additional eligible children;

`(B) to better meet the needs of working families in the community served by the center by serving more children in existing Early Head Start programs (existing as of the date the center is designated under this section) or in full-working-day, full calendar year Head Start programs;

`(C) to model and disseminate best practices for achieving early academic success, including achieving school readiness and developing prereading and premathematics skills for at-risk children and achieving the acquisition of the English language for limited English proficient children, and to provide seamless service delivery for eligible children and their families;

`(D) to coordinate early childhood and social services available in the community served by the center for at-risk children (prenatal through age 8) and their families, including services provided by child care providers, health care providers, and providers of income-based financial assistance, and other State and local services;

`(E) to provide training and cross training for Head Start teachers and staff, and to develop agency leaders;

`(F) to provide effective transitions between Head Start programs and elementary school, to facilitate ongoing communication between Head Start and elementary school teachers concerning children receiving Head Start services, and to provide training and technical assistance to providers who are public elementary school teachers and other staff of local educational agencies, child care providers, family service providers, and other providers of early childhood services, to help the providers described in this subparagraph increase their ability to work with low-income, at-risk children and their families; and

`(G) to carry out other activities determined by the center to improve the overall quality of the Head Start program carried out by the agency and the program carried out under the bonus grant involved.

`(2) INVOLVEMENT OF OTHER HEAD START AGENCIES AND PROVIDERS- Not later than the second year for which the center receives a bonus grant under subsection (b), the center, in carrying out activities under this subsection, shall work with the center's delegate agencies, several additional Head Start agencies, and other providers of early childhood services in the community involved, to encourage the agencies and providers described in this sentence to carry out model programs. The center shall establish the local council described in subsection (c)(1)(B)(vi).

`(e) RESEARCH AND REPORTS-

`(1) RESEARCH- The Secretary shall, subject to the availability of funds to carry out this subsection, make a grant to an independent organization

to conduct research on the ability of the centers of excellence to improve the school readiness of children receiving Head Start services, and to positively impact school results in the earliest grades. The organization shall also conduct research to measure the success of the centers of excellence at encouraging the center's delegate agencies, additional Head Start agencies, and other providers of early childhood services in the communities involved to meet measurable improvement goals, particularly in the area of school readiness.

`(2) REPORT- Not later than 48 months after the date of enactment of the Head Start Improvements for School Readiness Act, the organization shall prepare and submit to the Secretary and Congress a report containing the results of the research described in paragraph (1).

`(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS- There are authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2004 and each subsequent fiscal year--

`(1) \$90,000,000 to make bonus grants to centers of excellence under subsection (b) to carry out activities described in subsection (d);

`(2) \$2,500,000 to pay for the administrative costs of the Secretary in carrying out this section, including the cost of a conference of centers of excellence; and

`(3) \$2,000,000 for research activities described in subsection (e).'

SEC. 10. POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF HEAD START AGENCIES.

Section 642 of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9837) is amended to read as follows:

`SEC. 642. POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF HEAD START AGENCIES.

`(a) IN GENERAL- In order to be designated as a Head Start agency under this subchapter, an agency shall have authority under its charter or applicable law to receive and administer funds provided under this subchapter, funds and contributions from private or local public sources that may be used in support of a Head Start program, and funds provided under any Federal or State assistance program pursuant to which a public or private nonprofit or for-profit agency (as the case may be) organized in accordance with this subchapter, could act as a grantee, contractor, or sponsor of projects appropriate for inclusion in a Head Start program. Such an agency shall also be empowered to transfer funds so received, and to delegate powers to other agencies, subject to the powers of its governing board and its overall program responsibilities. The power to transfer funds and delegate powers shall include the power to make transfers and delegations covering component projects in all cases in which that power will contribute to efficiency and effectiveness or otherwise further program objectives.

`(b) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS- In order to be designated as a Head Start agency under this subchapter, a Head Start agency shall also--

`(1) establish a program with all standards set forth in section 641A(a)(1),

with particular attention to the standards set forth in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of such section;

`(2) demonstrate the capacity to serve eligible children with scientifically based curricula and other interventions and support services that help promote the school readiness of children participating in the program;

`(3) establish effective procedures and provide for the regular assessment of Head Start children, including observational and direct formal assessment, where appropriate;

`(4) seek the involvement of parents, area residents, and local business in the design and implementation of the program;

`(5) provide for the regular participation of parents and area residents in the implementation of the program;

`(6) provide technical and other support needed to enable such parents and area residents to secure, on their own behalf, available assistance from public and private sources;

`(7) establish effective procedures to facilitate the involvement of parents of participating children in activities designed to help such parents become full partners in the education of their children, and to afford such parents the opportunity to participate in the development and overall conduct of the program at the local level;

`(8) conduct outreach to schools in which Head Start children will enroll, local educational agencies, the local business community, community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, museums, and libraries to generate support and leverage the resources of the entire local community in order to improve school readiness;

`(9) offer (directly or through referral to local entities, such as entities carrying out Even Start programs under subpart 3 of part B of title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6381 et seq.)), to parents of participating children, family literacy services, and parenting skills training;

`(10) offer to parents of participating children substance abuse and other counseling (either directly or through referral to local entities), if needed, including information on the effect of drug exposure on infants and fetal alcohol syndrome;

`(11) at the option of such agency, offer (directly or through referral to local entities), to such parents--

`(A) training in basic child development (including cognitive development);

`(B) assistance in developing literacy and communication skills;

`(C) opportunities to share experiences with other parents (including parent mentor relationships);

`(D) regular in-home visitation; or

`(E) any other activity designed to help such parents become full partners in the education of their children;

`(12) provide, with respect to each participating family, a family needs assessment that includes consultation with such parents about the benefits

of parent involvement and about the activities described in this subsection in which such parents may choose to be involved (taking into consideration their specific family needs, work schedules, and other responsibilities);

`(13) consider providing services to assist younger siblings of children participating in its Head Start program, to obtain health services from other sources;

`(14) perform community outreach to encourage individuals previously unaffiliated with Head Start programs to participate in its Head Start program as volunteers; and

`(15)(A) inform custodial parents in single-parent families that participate in programs, activities, or services carried out or provided under this subchapter about the availability of child support services for purposes of establishing paternity and acquiring child support; and

`(B) refer eligible parents to the child support offices of State and local governments.

`(c) PROGRESS-

`(1) IN GENERAL- Each Head Start agency shall take steps to ensure, to the maximum extent possible, that children maintain the developmental and educational gains achieved in Head Start programs and build upon such gains in further schooling.

`(2) COORDINATION-

`(A) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY- In communities where both public prekindergarten programs and Head Start programs operate, a Head Start agency shall collaborate and coordinate activities with the local educational agency or other public agency responsible for the operation of the prekindergarten program and providers of prekindergarten, including outreach activities to identify eligible children.

`(B) ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS- Head Start staff shall, with the permission of the parents of children enrolled in Head Start programs, regularly communicate with the elementary schools such children will be attending to--

`(i) share information about such children;

`(ii) get advice and support from the teachers in such elementary schools regarding teaching strategies and options; and

`(iii) ensure a smooth transition to elementary school for such children.

`(C) OTHER PROGRAMS- The head of each Head Start agency shall coordinate activities and collaborate with the State agency responsible for administering the State program carried out under the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858 et seq.), and other entities carrying out early childhood education and development programs, programs under subtitle B of title VII of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance

Act (42 U.S.C. 11431 et seq.), Even Start programs under subpart 3 of part B of title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6381 et seq.), and programs under section 619 and part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C 1419, 1431 et seq.), serving the children and families served by the Head Start agency.

`(3) COLLABORATION- A Head Start agency shall take steps to coordinate activities with the local educational agency serving the community involved and with schools in which children participating in a Head Start program operated by such agency will enroll following such program, including--

`(A) collaborating on the shared use of transportation and facilities;

`(B) collaborating to reduce the duplication of services while increasing the program participation of underserved populations of eligible children; and

`(C) exchanging information on the provision of noneducational services to such children.

`(4) PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT- In order to promote the continued involvement of the parents of children that participate in Head Start programs in the education of their children upon transition to school, the Head Start agency shall--

`(A) provide training to the parents--

`(i) to inform the parents about their rights and responsibilities concerning the education of their children; and

`(ii) to enable the parents--

`(I) to understand and work with schools in order to communicate with teachers and other school personnel;

`(II) to support the schoolwork of their children; and

`(III) to participate as appropriate in decisions relating to the education of their children; and

`(B) take other actions, as appropriate and feasible, to support the active involvement of the parents with schools, school personnel, and school-related organizations.

`(d) ASSESSMENT- Each Head Start agency shall adopt, in consultation with experts in child development and with classroom teachers, an assessment to be used when hiring or evaluating any classroom teacher in a center-based Head Start program. Such assessment shall measure whether such teacher has mastered the functions described in section 648A(a)(1) and attained a level of literacy appropriate to implement Head Start curricula.

`(e) FUNDED ENROLLMENT; WAITING LIST- Each Head Start agency shall enroll 100 percent of its funded enrollment and maintain an active waiting list at all times with ongoing outreach to the community and activities to identify underserved populations.!

SEC. 11. HEAD START TRANSITION.

Section 642A of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9837a) is amended to read as follows:

`SEC. 642A. HEAD START TRANSITION AND ALIGNMENT WITH K-12 EDUCATION.

`Each Head Start agency shall take steps to coordinate activities with the local educational agency serving the community involved and with schools in which children participating in a Head Start program operated by such agency will enroll following such program, including--

`(1) developing and implementing a systematic procedure for transferring, with parental consent, Head Start program records for each participating child to the school in which such child will enroll;

`(2) establishing ongoing channels of communication between Head Start staff and their counterparts in the schools (including teachers, social workers, health staff, and local educational agency liaisons designated under section 722(g)(1)(J)(ii) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11432(g)(1)(J)(ii))) to facilitate coordination of programs;

`(3) developing continuity of developmentally appropriate curricula and practice between the Head Start agency and local educational agency to ensure an effective transition and appropriate shared expectations for children's learning and development as the children make the transition to school;

`(4) conducting meetings involving parents, kindergarten or elementary school teachers, and Head Start teachers to discuss the educational, developmental, and other needs of individual children;

`(5) organizing and participating in joint training, including transition-related training of school staff and Head Start staff;

`(6) developing and implementing a family outreach and support program, in cooperation with entities carrying out parental involvement efforts under title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.), and family outreach and support efforts under subtitle B of title VII of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11431 et seq.), taking into consideration the language needs of limited English proficient parents;

`(7) assisting families, administrators, and teachers in enhancing educational and developmental continuity and continuity of parental involvement in activities between Head Start services and elementary school classes;

`(8) linking the services provided in such Head Start program with the education services, including services relating to language, literacy, and numeracy, provided by such local educational agency;

`(9) helping parents understand the importance of parental involvement in a child's academic success while teaching the parents strategies for maintaining parental involvement as their child moves from the Head Start program to elementary school;

`(10) developing and implementing a system to increase program participation of underserved populations of eligible children, including children with disabilities and limited English proficient children; and

`(11) coordinating activities and collaborating to ensure that curricula used in the Head Start program is aligned with State early learning standards with regard to cognitive, social, emotional, and physical competencies that children entering kindergarten are expected to demonstrate.'.

SEC. 12. SUBMISSION OF PLANS TO GOVERNORS.

Section 643 of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9838) is amended--

(1) in the first sentence, by inserting `for approval' after `submitted to the chief executive officer of the State'; and

(2) in the last sentence, by inserting `to Indian and migrant and seasonal Head Start programs in existence on the date of enactment of the Head Start Improvements for School Readiness Act, or' after `other assistance'.

SEC. 13. PARTICIPATION IN HEAD START PROGRAMS.

Section 645(a) of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9840(a)) is amended--

(1) in paragraph (1)(A), by inserting `130 percent of' after `below'; and
(2) by adding at the end the following:

`(3)(A) In this paragraph:

`(i) The term `dependent' has the meaning given the term in paragraphs (2)(A) and (4)(A)(i) of section 401(a) of title 37, United States Code.

`(ii) The terms `member' and `uniformed services' have the meanings given the terms in paragraphs (23) and (3), respectively, of section 101 of title 37, United States Code.

`(B) The following amounts of pay and allowance of a member of the uniformed services shall not be considered to be income for purposes of determining the eligibility of a dependent of such member for programs funded under this subchapter:

`(i) The amount of any special pay payable under section 310 of title 37, United States Code, relating to duty subject to hostile fire or imminent danger.

`(ii) The amount of basic allowance payable under section 403 of such title, including any such amount that is provided on behalf of the member for housing that is acquired or constructed under the alternative authority for the acquisition and improvement of military housing under subchapter IV of chapter 169 of title 10, United States Code, or any other related provision of law.

`(4) After demonstrating a need through a community needs assessment, a Head Start agency may apply to the Secretary to convert part-day sessions, particularly consecutive part-day sessions, into full-day sessions.'

SEC. 14. EARLY HEAD START PROGRAMS.

Section 645A of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9840a) is amended--

(1) by striking the section heading and inserting the following:

`SEC. 645A. EARLY HEAD START PROGRAMS.');

(2) in subsection (b)--

(A) in paragraph (4), by striking `provide services to parents to support their role as parents' and inserting `provide additional services to parents to support their role as parents (including parenting skills training and training in basic child development)';

(B) in paragraph (5)--

(i) by inserting `(including home-based services)' after `with services'; and

(ii) by inserting `, and family support services' after `health services';

(C) by redesignating paragraphs (7), (8), and (9) as paragraphs (9), (10), and (11), respectively;

(D) by inserting after paragraph (6) the following:

`(7) develop and implement a systematic procedure for transitioning children and parents from an Early Head Start program into a Head Start program or another local early childhood education program;

`(8) establish channels of communication between staff of Early Head Start programs and staff of Head Start programs or other local early childhood education programs, to facilitate the coordination of programs;';
and

(E) in paragraph (10), as so redesignated--

(i) by striking `and providers' and inserting `, providers';
and

(ii) by inserting `, and the agencies responsible for administering section 106 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106a)' after `(20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.)';

(3) in subsection (d)--

(A) in paragraph (1), by inserting `, including tribal governments and entities operating migrant and seasonal Head Start programs' after `subchapter'; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by inserting `, including community-based organizations' after `private entities';

(4) in subsection (g)(2)(B), by striking clause (iv) and inserting the

following:

`(iv) providing professional development and personnel enhancement activities, including the provision of funds to recipients of grants under subsection (a), relating to--

`(I) effective methods of conducting parent education, home visiting, and promoting quality early childhood development;

`(II) recruiting and retaining qualified staff; and

`(III) increasing program participation for underserved populations of eligible children.';

(5) by adding at the end the following:

`(h) STAFF QUALIFICATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT-

`(1) CENTER-BASED STAFF- The Secretary shall ensure that, not later than September 30, 2009, all teachers providing direct services to Early Head Start children and families in Early Head Start centers have a minimum of a child development associate credential or an associate degree, and have been trained (or have equivalent course work) in early childhood development.

`(2) HOME VISITOR STAFF-

`(A) STANDARDS- In order to further enhance the quality of home visiting services provided to families of children participating in home-based, center-based, or combination program options under this subchapter, the Secretary shall establish standards for training, qualifications, and the conduct of home visits for home visitor staff in Early Head Start programs.

`(B) CONTENTS- The standards for training, qualifications, and the conduct of home visits shall include content related to--

`(i) structured child-focused home visiting that promotes parents' ability to support the child's cognitive, social, emotional, and physical development;

`(ii) effective strengths-based parent education, including methods to encourage parents as their child's first teachers;

`(iii) early childhood development with respect to children from birth through age 3;

`(iv) methods to help parents promote emergent literacy in their children from birth through age 3;

`(v) health, vision, hearing, and developmental screenings;

`(vi) strategies for helping families coping with crisis; and

`(vii) the relationship of health and well-being of pregnant women to prenatal and early child development.'

SEC. 15. RECORDS AND AUDITS.

(a) RECIPIENTS- Section 647(a) of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9842(a)) is amended by striking 'Each recipient of' and inserting 'Each Head Start agency,

Head Start center, or Early Head Start center receiving'.

(b) ACCOUNTING- Section 647 of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9842) is amended by adding at the end the following:

`(c) Each Head Start agency, Head Start center, or Early Head Start center receiving financial assistance under this subchapter shall maintain, and annually submit to the Secretary, a complete accounting of its administrative expenses, including expenses for salaries and compensation funded under this subchapter and provide such additional documentation as the Secretary may require.'

SEC. 16. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING.

Section 648 of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9843) is amended--

(1) in subsection (a)(2), by striking `(b) and (c)' and inserting `(b), (c), and (d)';

(2) by redesignating subsections (b) through (e) as subsections (c) through (f), respectively;

(3) by inserting after subsection (a) the following:

`(b) The Secretary shall make available funds set aside in section 640(a)(2)(C)(ii) to support a regional or State system of early childhood education training and technical assistance that improves the capacity of Head Start programs to deliver services in accordance with the standards described in section 641A(a)(1), with particular attention to the standards described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of such section. The Secretary shall--

(1) ensure that agencies with demonstrated expertise in providing high quality training and technical assistance to improve the delivery of Head Start services, including the State Head Start Associations, State agencies, migrant and seasonal Head Start programs, and other entities providing training and technical assistance in early education, for the region or State are included in the planning and coordination of the system; and

(2) encourage States to supplement the funds authorized in section 640(a)(2)(C)(ii) with Federal, State, or local funds other than Head Start funds, to expand training and technical assistance activities beyond Head Start agencies to include other providers of other early childhood services within a region or State.';

(4) in subsection (d), as so redesignated--

(A) in paragraph (1)(B)(ii), by striking `educational performance measures' and inserting `measures';

(B) in paragraph (2), by inserting `and for activities described in section 1221(b)(3) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6371(b)(3))' after `children with disabilities';

(C) in paragraph (5), by inserting `, including assessing the needs of homeless children and their families' after `needs assessment';

(D) in paragraph (10), by striking `; and' and inserting a semicolon;

(E) in paragraph (11), by striking the period and inserting `; and';
and

(F) by adding at the end the following:

`(12) assist Head Start agencies and programs in increasing the program participation of eligible homeless children.';

(5) in subsection (e), as so redesignated, by inserting `including community-based organizations,' after `nonprofit entities';

(6) in subsection (f), as so redesignated, by inserting `or providing services to children determined to be abused or neglected, training for personnel providing services to children referred by entities providing child welfare services or receiving child welfare services,' after `English language),'; and

(7) by adding at the end the following:

`(g) The Secretary shall provide, either directly or through grants or other arrangements, funds for training of Head Start personnel in addressing the unique needs of migrant and seasonal farmworking families, families with limited English proficiency, and homeless families.

`(h) Funds used under this section shall be used to provide high quality, sustained, and intensive, training and technical assistance in order to have a positive and lasting impact on classroom instruction. Funds shall be used to carry out activities related to 1 or more of the following:

`(1) Education and early childhood development.

`(2) Child health, nutrition, and safety.

`(3) Family and community partnerships.

`(4) Other areas that impact the quality or overall effectiveness of Head Start programs.

`(i) Funds used under this section for training shall be used for needs identified annually by a grant applicant or delegate agency in its program improvement plan, except that funds shall not be used for long-distance travel expenses for training activities--

`(1) available locally or regionally; or

`(2) substantially similar to locally or regionally available training activities.

`(j)(1) To support local efforts to enhance early language and preliteracy development of children in Head Start programs, and to provide the children with high-quality oral language skills, and environments that are rich in literature, in which to acquire language and preliteracy skills, each Head Start agency, in coordination with the appropriate State office and the relevant State Head Start collaboration office, shall ensure that all of the agency's Head Start teachers receive ongoing training in language and emergent literacy (referred to in this subsection as `literacy training'), including appropriate curricula and assessments to improve instruction and learning. Such training shall include training in methods to promote phonological and phonemic awareness and vocabulary development in an age-appropriate and culturally and linguistically appropriate manner.

`(2) The literacy training shall be provided at the local level in order--

`(A) to be provided, to the extent feasible, in the context of the Head Start programs of the State involved and the children the program serves; and

`(B) to be tailored to the early childhood literacy background and

experience of the teachers involved.

`(3) The literacy training shall be culturally and linguistically appropriate and support children's development in their home language.

`(4) The literacy training shall include training in how to work with parents to enhance positive language and early literacy development at home.

`(5) The literacy training shall include specific methods to best address the needs of children who are English language learners, have speech and language delays, including problems with articulation, or have other disabilities.'.

SEC. 17. STAFF QUALIFICATION AND DEVELOPMENT.

Section 648A of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9843a) is amended--

(1) in subsection (a)--

(A) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

`(2) DEGREE REQUIREMENTS-

`(A) IN GENERAL- The Secretary shall ensure that--

`(i) not later than September 30, 2009, all Head Start teachers in center-based programs have at least--

`(I)(aa) an associate degree (or equivalent coursework) relating to early childhood; or

`(bb) an associate degree in a related educational area and, to the extent practicable, coursework relating to early childhood; and

`(II) demonstrated teaching competencies, as determined by the program director involved (including, at a minimum, an appropriate level of literacy, a demonstrated capacity to be highly engaged with children, and a demonstrated ability to effectively implement an early childhood curriculum); and

`(ii) not later than September 30, 2007, all Head Start curriculum specialists and education coordinators in center-based programs have--

`(I) the capacity to offer assistance to other teachers in the implementation and adaptation of curricula to the group and individual needs of a class; and

`(II)(aa) a baccalaureate or advanced degree relating to early childhood; or

`(bb) a baccalaureate or advanced degree and coursework equivalent to a major relating to early childhood;

`(iii) not later than September 30, 2007, all Head Start teaching assistants in center-based programs have--

`(I) at least a child development associate credential;

`(II) enrolled in a program leading to an associate or baccalaureate degree; or

`(III) enrolled in a child development associate credential program to be completed within 2 years; and

`(iv) not later than September 30, 2010, 50 percent of all Head Start teachers in each center-based program have a baccalaureate degree relating to early childhood or a related educational area (or equivalent coursework), and demonstrated teaching competencies, as determined by the program director involved (including, at a minimum, an appropriate level of literacy, a demonstrated capacity to be highly engaged with children, and a demonstrated ability to effectively implement an early childhood curriculum).

`(B) PROGRESS-

`(i) REPORT- The Secretary shall--

`(I) require Head Start agencies to--

`(aa) demonstrate continuing progress each year to reach the result described in subparagraph (A);

`(bb) submit to the Secretary a report indicating the number and percentage of classroom instructors in center-based programs with child development associate credentials or associate, baccalaureate, or graduate degrees; and

`(II) compile and submit a summary of all program reports described in subclause (I)(bb) to the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate.

`(C) SERVICE REQUIREMENTS- The Secretary shall establish requirements to ensure that, in order to enable Head Start agencies to comply with the requirements of subparagraph (A), individuals who receive financial assistance under this subchapter to pursue a degree described in subparagraph (A) shall--

`(i) teach or work in a Head Start program for a minimum of 3 years after receiving the degree; or

`(ii) repay the total or a prorated amount of the financial assistance received based on the length of service completed after receiving the degree.'; and

(B) by striking paragraphs (3) and (4) and inserting the following:

`(3) WAIVER-

`(A) IN GENERAL- On request, the Secretary may grant a waiver of the postsecondary degree requirements of paragraph (2) for 1 or more Head Start agencies, either individually, statewide, or throughout a region, that can demonstrate--

`(i) that continuing aggressive statewide and national

efforts have been unsuccessful at recruiting an individual to serve as a Head Start teacher or curriculum specialist or education coordinator who meets the requirements of paragraph (2)(A);

`(ii) limited access to degree programs (including quality distance learning programs), due to the remote location of the program involved; or

`(iii) that Head Start staff members are, as of the day the waiver is granted, is enrolled in a program that--

`(I) grants the required degree; and

`(II) will be completed within 1 year.

`(B) LIMITATION- An agency that receives a waiver under subparagraph (A) shall ensure that Head Start teachers for the agency, as of the day the waiver is granted, who have not met the postsecondary degree requirements of paragraph (2) but are otherwise highly qualified and competent shall be directly and appropriately supervised by a teacher who has met or exceeded the requirements of this subchapter.

`(C) DURATION- The Secretary may not grant a waiver under subparagraph (A) for a period that exceeds 1 year.';

(2) in subsection (c)--

(A) in paragraph (2), by striking `and' at the end;

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking the period and inserting `; and'; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

`(4) promote the use of appropriate strategies to meet the needs of special populations (including limited English proficient populations).';

(3) in subsection (d)(3)(C) by inserting `, including a center,' after `any agency'; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

`(f) PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS- Every Head Start agency and center shall create, in consultation with employees of the agency or center (including family service workers), a professional development plan for employees who provide direct services to children, including a plan for classroom teachers, curriculum specialists, and education coordinators to meet the requirements set forth in subsection (a).'

SEC. 18. TRIBAL COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES HEAD START PARTNERSHIP.

The Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9831 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 648A the following:

`SEC. 648B. TRIBAL COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY-HEAD START PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM.

`(a) PURPOSE- The purpose of this section is to promote social competencies and school readiness in Indian children.

`(b) TRIBAL COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY-HEAD START PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM-

`(1) GRANTS- The Secretary is authorized to award grants, for periods of not less than 5 years, to Tribal Colleges and Universities to--

`(A) implement education programs that include education concerning tribal culture and language and increase the number of associate, baccalaureate, and graduate degrees in early childhood education and related fields that are earned by Indian Head Start agency staff members, parents of children served by such an agency, and members of the tribal community involved;

`(B) develop and implement the programs under subparagraph (A) in technology-mediated formats; and

`(C) provide technology literacy programs for Indian Head Start agency staff members and children and families of children served by such an agency.

`(2) STAFFING- The Secretary shall ensure that the American Indian Programs Branch of the Head Start Bureau of the Department of Health and Human Services shall have staffing sufficient to administer the programs under this section and to provide appropriate technical assistance to Tribal Colleges and Universities receiving grants under this section.

`(c) APPLICATION- Each Tribal College or University desiring a grant under this section shall submit an application to the Secretary, at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require, including a certification that the Tribal College or University has established a partnership with 1 or more Indian Head Start agencies for the purpose of conducting the activities described in subsection (b).

`(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS- There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section, \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2004 and such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2005 through 2008.

`(e) DEFINITIONS- In this section:

`(1) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION- The term 'institution of higher education' has the meaning given such term in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)).

`(2) TRIBAL COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY- The term 'Tribal College or University'--

`(A) has the meaning given such term in section 316 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1059c); and

`(B) means an institution determined to be accredited or a candidate for accreditation by a nationally recognized accrediting agency or association.'.

SEC. 19. RESEARCH, DEMONSTRATIONS, AND EVALUATION.

Section 649 of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9844) is amended--

(1) in subsection (a)(1)(B), by inserting `and children determined to be abused or neglected' after `children with disabilities';

(2) in subsection (d)--

(A) in paragraph (8), by adding `and' after the semicolon;

(B) by striking paragraph (9);

(C) by redesignating paragraph (10) as paragraph (9); and

(D) by striking the last sentence;

(3) in subsection (g)--

(A) in paragraph (1)(A)--

(i) by striking clause (i); and

(ii) by redesignating clauses (ii) and (iii) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively; and

(B) in paragraph (7)(C)--

(i) in clause (i)--

(I) by striking `1999' and inserting `2003';

(II) by striking `2001' and inserting `2005'; and

(III) by striking `2003' and inserting `2006'; and

(ii) in clause (ii), by striking `Labor and Human Resources' and inserting `Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions'; and

(4) by striking subsection (h) and inserting the following:

`(h) NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES STUDY-

`(1) IN GENERAL- The Secretary shall enter into a contract with the Board on Children, Youth, and Families of the National Research Council, the

Board on Testing and Assessments, and the Institute of Medicine, of the National Academy of Sciences to establish an independent panel of experts to review and synthesize research and theories in the social, behavioral, and biological sciences regarding early childhood, and make recommendations with regard to each of the following:

`(A) Age- and developmentally appropriate Head Start academic requirements and outcomes, including the standards described in section 641A(a)(1)(B)(ii).

`(B) Differences in the type, length, mix, and intensity of services that are necessary to ensure that children from challenging family or social backgrounds (including low-income children, children with disabilities, and limited English proficient children) enter kindergarten ready to succeed.

`(C) Appropriate assessments of young children for the purposes of improving instruction, services, and program quality, including--

`(i) formal and systematic observational assessments in a child's natural environment;

`(ii) assessments of children's development through parent

and provider interviews;

`(iii) assessments of appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities;

`(iv) appropriate assessments for children with disabilities, limited English proficient children, and children from different cultural backgrounds; and

`(v) other assessments used in Head Start programs.

`(D) Identification of existing, or recommendations for the development of, scientifically-based, valid and reliable assessments that are capable of measuring child outcomes in the domains important to school readiness, including language skills, prereading ability, premathematics ability, cognitive ability, scientific ability, social and emotional development, and physical development;

`(E) Appropriate use and application of valid and reliable assessments for Head Start programs identified in accordance with subparagraph (D).

`(2) COMPOSITION-

`(A) IN GENERAL- The panel described in paragraph (1) shall consist of multiple experts in each of the following areas:

`(i) Child development (including cognitive, social, emotional, and physical development) and child education (including approaches to learning).

`(ii) Professional development, including preparation of individuals who teach young children.

`(iii) Assessment of young children (including children with disabilities and limited English proficient children), including screening, diagnostic, and classroom-based instructional assessment.

`(B) REPRESENTATIVES- The panel described in paragraph (1) shall be selected and appointed by the National Academy of Sciences, after consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and shall include, to the extent practicable, representatives of--

`(i) the Department of Health and Human Services, including representatives of--

`(I) the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;

`(II) the National Institute of Mental Health; and

`(III) the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development;

`(ii) the National Association for the Education of Young Children;

`(iii) the National Center for Learning Disabilities;

`(iv) the American Academy of Pediatrics;

`(v) the Institute of Education Sciences of the Department of Education;

- `(vi) the General Accounting Office; and
- `(vii) other entities with noted experts in the fields of early care and early childhood education, including additional representatives of Federal agencies.

`(3) TIMING-

`(A) ESTABLISHMENT- Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of the Head Start Improvements for School Readiness Act, the Board on Children, Youth, and Families of the National Research Council, the Board on Testing and Assessments, and the Institute of Medicine, of the National Academy of Sciences shall establish the panel described in paragraph (1), including selecting and appointing the members of the panel. Representatives described in paragraph (2) shall be selected and appointed after consultation with the Secretary.

`(B) RECOMMENDATIONS- Not later than 1 year after the panel described in paragraph (1) is established, the panel shall complete, and submit to the Secretary a report containing, the recommendations described in paragraph (1). The Secretary shall not implement the amendments made to section 641A(a)(1)(B)(ii) by the Head Start Improvements for School Readiness Act until the panel submits the report.

`(4) APPLICATION OF PANEL REPORT- The Secretary shall use the results of the review and recommendations described in paragraph (1) to (where appropriate) develop, inform, and revise--

`(A) the educational standards, and the performance measures, described in section 641A; and

`(B) the assessments utilized in the Head Start programs.

`(5) CONTRACT- The Secretary shall ensure that the contract referred to in paragraph (1) provides that--

`(A) the National Academy of Sciences shall receive through the contract--

`(i)(I) a total amount if the panel described in paragraph (1) submits the report described in paragraph (3)(B) not later than the date that is 1 year after the panel is established; or

`(II) 1/2 of the total amount if the panel submits the report later than that date; and

`(ii)(I) not more than 1/2 of the total amount, prior to the date on which the panel is established; and

`(II) the remainder of the sum described in subclause (I) or (II) of clause (i), as appropriate, after the panel submits the report; and

`(B) the Secretary may require additional penalties, including repayment of funds, as appropriate, for failure to submit the report or to carry out other duties under this subsection.

`(i) SERVICES TO LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENT CHILDREN AND FAMILIES-

`(1) STUDY- The Secretary shall conduct a study on the status of limited English proficient children and their families in Head Start or Early Head Start programs.

`(2) REPORT- The Secretary shall prepare and submit to Congress, not later than September 2008, a report containing the results of the study, including information on--

`(A) the demographics of limited English proficient children from birth through age 5, including the number of such children receiving Head Start or Early Head Start services and the geographic distribution of children described in this subparagraph;

SEC. 20. REPORTS.

Section 650(a) of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9846(a)) is amended--

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking `Labor and Human Resources' and inserting `Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions'; and
(2) in paragraph (8), by inserting `homelessness,' after `ethnic background,'.

SEC. 21. COMPARABILITY OF WAGES.

Section 653 of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9848) is amended--

(1) by striking `The Secretary shall take' and inserting `(a) The Secretary shall take';

(2) in the first sentence of subsection (a), by striking `or (2)' and inserting `(2) in excess of the salary of the Secretary, in the case of an individual compensated with funds awarded under this subchapter or the Community Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9901 et seq.); or (3)'; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

`(b) If in any fiscal year the restriction described in subsection (a)(2) is violated, the Secretary shall withhold from the base grant of the Head Start agency involved (as defined in section 641A(f)(1)) for the next fiscal year, an amount equal to the aggregate amount by which the salary that resulted in the violation exceeded the salary of the Secretary.'.

SEC. 22. LIMITATION WITH RESPECT TO CERTAIN UNLAWFUL ACTIVITIES.

Section 655 of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9850) is amended by inserting `or in' after `assigned by'.

SEC. 23. POLITICAL ACTIVITIES.

Section 656 of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9851) is amended--
(1) by striking all that precedes 'chapter 15' and inserting the following:

`SEC. 656. POLITICAL ACTIVITIES.

- `(a) STATE OR LOCAL AGENCY- For purposes of; and
(2) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:
- `(b) RESTRICTIONS-
 - `(1) IN GENERAL- A program assisted under this subchapter, and any individual employed by, or assigned to, a program assessed under this subchapter (during the hours in which such individual is working on behalf of such program), shall not engage in--
 - `(A) any partisan or nonpartisan political activity or any other political activity associated with a candidate, or contending faction or group, in an election for public or party office;
 - `(B) any activity to provide voters or prospective voters with transportation to the polls or similar assistance in connection with any such election; or
 - `(C) any voter registration activity.
 - `(2) RULES AND REGULATIONS- The Secretary, after consultation with the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, may issue rules and regulations to provide for the enforcement of this section, which may include provisions for summary suspension of assistance or other action necessary to permit enforcement on an emergency basis.'

SEC. 24. PARENTAL CONSENT REQUIREMENT FOR HEALTH SERVICES.

The Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9831 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

`SEC. 657A. PARENTAL CONSENT REQUIREMENT FOR NONEMERGENCY INTRUSIVE PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS.

- `(a) DEFINITION- The term 'nonemergency intrusive physical examination' means, with respect to a child, a physical examination that--
 - `(1) is not immediately necessary to protect the health or safety of the child or the health or safety of another individual; and
 - `(2) requires incision or is otherwise invasive, or involves exposure of private body parts.
- `(b) REQUIREMENT- A Head Start agency shall obtain written parental consent before administration of, or referral for, any health care service provided or arranged to be provided, including any nonemergency intrusive physical

examination of a child in connection with participation in a program under this subchapter.

`(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION- Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit agencies from using established methods, for handling cases of suspected or known child abuse and neglect, that are in compliance with applicable Federal, State, or tribal law.'.